

<http://www.indiancatholic.in/news/storydetails.php/12387-1-1-Inter-faith-dialogue-disapprove-s-violence,-forced-conversions>

Swami Jayendra Saraswati said that instead of calling India 'secular' it should be addressed as 'spiritual', since it is was 'deeply spiritual'. He said, "Since it is deeply spiritual no violence should take place against minorities."

Both sides discussed intensely on violence against the church that recently had taken place in Kandhamal and forced conversions for two hours and in the joint press conference that followed Swami Jayendra Saraswati issued a press statement containing eleven points which was highly critical of conversions in India, foreign funding for educational charity projects and the external interference in the internal issues of India. In the statement he pointed out the Pope's recent visit to Israel and his promise that "the Catholic Church would desist from all missionary and conversion activities among the Jews."

No such promises were made in India. Even though the dialogue externally seemed cordial the statements showed that it was well within the orthodox boundaries of both the religions. Jayendra Saraswati also came out strongly against the **US Commission on International Religious Freedom**, which was sending a team to India to examine the recent spite of violence in Kandhamal. The 69 year old Sankaracharya said, It is an "intrusive mechanism of a foreign government to interfere in the internal affairs of this country.... The Commission, assigned to hold meetings and scrutinize the religious freedom and restrictions in the country, must not be permitted to enter India,"